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3 FLOW SCHEDULING FOR NETWORK APPLICATION APPARATUS

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5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

6 A method and system for distributing flows between a multiple  
7 processors. The flows can be received from an external source  
8 such as a network, by a front-end processor that recognizes the  
9 flow and the associated request, and identifies at least one  
10 internal applications processor to process the request/flow. The  
11 front-end processor utilizes a flow scheduling vector related to  
12 the identified applications processor(s), and the flow scheduling  
13 vector can be based on intrinsic data from the applications  
14 processor(s) that can include CPU utilization, memory utilization,  
15 packet loss, and queue length or buffer occupation. In some  
16 embodiments, applications processors can be understood to belong  
17 to a group, wherein applications processors within a group can be  
18 configured identically. A flow schedule vector can be computed  
19 for the different applications processor groups. In some  
20 embodiments, a control processor can collect the intrinsic  
21 applications processor data, compute the flow scheduling vectors,  
22 and transfer the flow scheduling vectors to the front-end  
23 processor.